

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 8 and 9, without prejudice, amend claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10

and 13 (with changes being shown in the attachment hereto), and add claims 14 and 15 as follows:

B1  
3. (Twice Amended) Panel according to claim 14, characterized in that a tile (2) comprises an upper covering plate (8) and at least one lower rigid supporting plate (9), made of a material with high flexural strength and on which the upper plate is attached.

4. (Amended) Panel according to claim 3, characterized in that a covering plate (8) is a plate with low flexural strength, such as a plate of parquet, tile, stone or marble.

B2  
6. (Twice Amended) Panel according to claim 14, characterized in that the supporting plate (3) is advantageously a plate made of foam or cork.

7. (Twice Amended) Panel according to claim 14, characterized in that the tiles (2) are attached on the flexible support plate (3) by adhesive bonding.

B3  
10. (Twice Amended) Panel according to claim 14, characterized in that it constitutes an assembly that is rigid in the approximately flat state against the forces acting on the top surface of the panel.

B4  
13. (Twice Amended) Covering, particularly for a floor, characterized in that it is formed by the contiguous juxtaposition of panels (1) according to claim 14 on a laying surface (12).

B5  
14. (New) Covering panel, particularly for a floor, comprising:  
a plurality of tiles;  
a supporting plate having an upper face and a lower face, and a thickness between said faces, said supporting plate being made from a flexible material that is elastically compressible in the direction of said thickness;

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said tiles being individually attached to said upper face of said supporting plate while being juxtaposed thereon in a way that adjacent tiles are in contact with one another along their edges, with edges of adjacent tiles being aligned to form continuous lines on the upper face of the panel; and

portions of said supporting plate beneath said continuous lines formed by said aligned edges of adjacent tiles constituting folding lines along which said supporting plate and said panel are foldable.

15. (New) Covering panel according to claim 14, wherein the individual mounting of the tiles on the flexible supporting plate, the flexibility of the supporting plate with said folding lines, and the compressibility of the supporting plate constitute means of compensating for irregularities or flatness defects of a surface on which the panels are laid.